

Serial No.: 09/531,607
Filing Date: 21 MARCH 2000

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed 2 March 2004. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration with an eye toward allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-40 are pending after entry of the present amendment. Claims 1-36, 39 and 40 stand allowed, claim 38 is objected to, and claim 37 stands rejected. Claim 37 is cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer towards presenting it in a related application. Claim 38 is amended herein to place the claim in independent form. Applicant submits that the amended to claim 38 has not changed the scope of claim 38. A complete listing of all claims that are, or were in the application, along with an appropriate status identifier, is provided above in the section entitled "Amendments to the Claims". Markings are provided on claims amended in the present amendment.

Support for the above claim amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, drawings, and claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Without admitting the propriety of the rejection, Applicant has canceled claim 37 without prejudice or disclaimer towards presenting it in a related application.

Claim Objection

Claim 38 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant has rewritten claim 38 to place the claim in independent form, and submits that the objection is overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

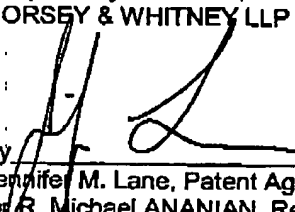
Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 1-36, 39 and 40.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification of such is respectfully requested. If after review, the Examiner feels there are further unresolved issues, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (415) 781-1989.

Respectfully submitted,
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

By 
Jennifer M. Lane, Patent Agent, Reg. No. 51,916
for R. Michael ANANIAN, Reg. No. 35,050
Attorney for Applicants
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Four Embarcadero Center - Suite 3400
San Francisco, California 94111-4187
Tel.: (415) 781-1989
Fax: (415) 398-3249
SF-1144342